

## APPENDIX IV

### *RB's Account Book, 1858*

THROUGH THE FIRST six months of 1858, RB kept an account of the Brownings' expenditures in Florence. Presumably, considering the poet's attention to financial matters, he maintained such records during all fifteen years of the Brownings' married life. But apart from a short list of items bought when furnishing Casa Guidi in 1848 (see *Reconstruction*, E544), only the account book presented here has survived from that period.

Expenditures are listed on seven pages of a paper-covered, octavo-sized notebook. Each entry is dated and recorded in Tuscan currency: francesconi, pauls, crazie. 10 pauls equals 1 francescone; 8 crazie equals 1 paul. According to Murray's *Handbook for Travellers in Northern Italy* (1858), the English currency equivalents were as follows: 1 francescone—4 shillings, 5 pence; 1 paul—5 3/10 pence; 1 crazia—2/3 pence. 1 pound equalled about 4 francesconi, 4 pauls.

Most of the entries reflect the day-to-day household expenses at Casa Guidi, such as "washing," "wood," and servants' wages. One recurring entry, often the largest expenditure of the month, is variously named "House-expenses," "House," and "House-Bill." Other outlays, for things separate from the poets' apartment, include concerts, rides (i.e. horseback rides), and carriages. In one case, RB failed to record the amount for an entry (see 13 May, "Ba, Italian Books"). Total expenditures for the six-month period amount to about 1,473 francesconi, or about 335 pounds, not including the 70 francesconi that RB lent to Mrs. Stuart (see the final entries below).

Without evidence to the contrary, it is probably safe to say that the manuscript of this account book was presented by Fannie Browning to T.J. Wise, possibly at or near the same time she gave him the Brownings' second joint address book (AB-4); see vol. 24, p. 381. Wise made the account book part of his Ashley Library, which is owned by and housed in the British Library. We gratefully acknowledge that institution for permission to publish this record of the Brownings' expenditures from January through June 1858.

In this presentation, the dashes that RB sometimes uses after numerals have been converted to periods. Other editorial intrusion has been kept to a minimum, including annotations. Many of the persons RB mentions by first or last name can be identified by way of the index. "A" refers to Annunziata Lena, EBB's lady's maid, unless otherwise noted.

## Expenses. Florence, Casa Guidi, 1858

H.J.L.H.H.U.<sup>1</sup>*F. Pauls cze.*

Jan. 1.	Ferdinando's wages	6.	—	—
	Porter & Lighting.....	1.	6.	—
	Girolama .....	1.		
4.	House-expenses .....	13.	8.	2
	Sundries .....	4.	9.	4
6.	Gate <sup>2</sup> .....	—	1	
7.	Washing .....	1.	2.	4
	Stockings & sundries .....	10.	7.	
	Vieusseux—one year to Nov. 3. '58 .....	9.		
	Fioraja <sup>3</sup> .....	—	5	
	2 letters out .....	2.	4	
8.	Del Bene—3 months teaching &c .....	18.	5.	4
9.	Wood.....	6.	3.	
	Letter.....	—	2.	4
11.	House expenses &c.....	21.		
	Roberts, Chemist.....	12.	3.	
	Goodban.....	7.	7.	4
12.	Wood &c .....	6.	8.	
	Carpenter .....	—	5.	4
	Washing .....	1.	3.	6.
	Sundries .....	2.	4.	
18.	House .....	16.	4.	5.
	Sundries .....	4.	4.	6
	Pippo, (St. Ant.) .....	1.		
	Stamps .....	—	1.	4.
	Milli (Testimonial).....	2.		
	Letter.....	—	1.	6.
19.	Annunziata's monthly wages .....	5.	—	—
	Washing .....	1.	4.	1.
	Sundries .....	3.	0.	4.
23.	Brecker, Music, Subscription, Sundries.....	18.	9.	
25.	Wood—&c .....	6.	4.	4.
	House Expenses .....	14.	4.	
	Sundries .....	5.	1.	2
26.	Wood &c washing, sundries .....	7.	4.	
29.	Goldoni .....	—	2.	4
30.	Cushions for chair.....	3.	2	
Feb. 1.	House, & .....	12.	8.	5
	Sundries .....	3.	3.	7.
	Ferd. wages.....	6.		
	Water.....	—	2	
	Porter—& lighting .....	1.	6.	
	Peni's shoes.....	1.		
	Gate.....	1		
	Stamps .....	2.	4	
2.	Washing & sundries .....	3.	1.	

3.	Circular frame (Donatello).....	2.	5
	Pamphlet.....	-	4
6.	Champagne.....	8.	4.
	Carriage & Emilio <sup>4</sup> .....	-	3. 6.
8.	House Bill & sundries.....	19.	2 -
	Iron (to Ferd.).....	-	5. -
15.	House Bill & sundries.....	21.	6. -
18.	Two washing Bills & sundries.....	6.	-
19.	Girolama.....	1.	-
	A's wages.....	5.	
22.	House bill & sundries.....	19.	5. 2
	Wood &c.....	6.	4
	Letters.....	-	1. 7
24.	Vasari <sup>5</sup> .....	6.	8. -
March 1.	Porter & lighting.....	1.	6. -
	F's wages.....	6.	- -
	House Bill &.....	12.	7. 6
	Sundries.....	4.	4. 5.
	Rent, one year.....	100.	
2.	Letters.....	-	5 -
	Wood.....	5.	9 -
	Umbrella for Ferd <sup>n</sup> .....	2.	4 -
3.	Washing & sundries.....	2.	6. -
7.	Stamps.....	5.	-
8.	House-Bill &.....	13.	5. -
	Sundries.....	6.	5. -
	Peni.....	4.	
	Homœop Book & medicine.....	8.	
9.	Washing.....	1.	2. 4
	Sundries.....	-	8. -
	Milli's Poems <sup>6</sup> .....	1.	1 2.
	Balia.....	1.	4
10.	Wood.....	5.	9.
	Doney's.....	1.	4.
	Gloves.....	8.	
11.	Carriage to Villa.....	1.	3.
12.	2 p. Boots.....	5.	2
13.	Baldinucci <sup>7</sup> .....	2.	
15.	House-Bill.....	14.	4. 2
	Sundries.....	8.	4. 1.
18.	Brecker.....	1.	5. 4
	Tailor for clothes.....	16.	
19.	Ess. [illegible word].....	8.	
	A's wages.....	5.	
	Washing.....	1.	2. 4
	Sundries.....	-	4. 5.
21.	Table cloths.....	4.	5
	Grater.....	-	1. 4.
	Carriage.....	-	3.

	House Bill.....	12.	6.	3.
	Sundries .....	4.	5.	1.
22.	Riding .....	3.	4.	
23.	Stockings .....	3.	8.	
	Two books for Stewart's [ <i>sic</i> ] children .....	1.	6.	4.
27.	Homœop. med. ....	7.	4.	
	Ba's bonnet .....	4	8.	
	Girol.....	1		
28.	Pergola, Milli .....	-	8.	
29.	House .....	13.	3.	6
	Sundries .....	75.	1.	
30.	Wood &c.....	5.	9.	
	Washing (2).....	1.	2.	4.
	.....	1	3.	3
	Sundries .....	2.	3.	2
	Haircutting (2) .....	-	4.	-
31.	Ride.....		3.	4.
[April] 1.	Porter & light.....	1.	5.	
2.	Pencils.....		1	6
	Prato.....	3.		
3.	F's wages .....	6.		
	Skeleton .....	10.	5	
	Annunz. (vecch).....	1		
5.	House expenses.....	123.	3	
	Sundries .....	84.	4	
	Riding .....	3	4.	
	Stuart's Lectures .....	3	-	
6.	Pencils.....	4	4	
10.	Homœop. med.....	5.	3	
	Paper .....	-	2.	4
12.	House ex .....	13.	2.	2
	Sundries .....	5.	8.	2
	Carriage .....	3.	-	-
	Plummet.....		3	
	Gloves.....	1.	2.	
	Gate.....		1.	6.
14.	Carriage .....	3		
	Bouquet Bill.....	2.		
	Newspaper .....	2		
15.	Ride.....	-	4.	
	Murray's Phrase-book.....	-	8.	4.
16.	Box at Cocomero <sup>8</sup> .....	5.	-	-
	Rug, Book, gate, Pippo .....	1.		
	Brecker's Bill &c.....	3.	1.	4
19.	House Bill.....	12.	9.	7
	Expenses .....	4.	4.	2
	2 Washing Bills.....	1.	4.	2
	.....	1.	2.	2
	Sundries .....	2.	2.	4

	A's wages .....	5	
	Ride &c.....	4.	
20.	Carriage .....	1.	4
21.	Watch mended.....	1.	2.
22.	Model-stand & Frame.....	2.	8.
	Chalk.....	2.	4
23.	Box Cocomero <sup>8</sup> .....	2.	1
	Line.....	5.	–
	Theatre .....	1.	4
25.	House expenses.....	12.	9. 2.
	Expenses .....	5.	5. 4
	Washing .....	1.	3.
	Sundries .....	2.	3.
	Ride &c.....	4.	
26.	Emilio .....	–	1. 4.
	Newspaper .....	1	
28.	Box at Cocomero <sup>8</sup> .....	2.	–
29.	Ride &c.....	4.	
30.	Flowers .....	3.	–
[May] 1.	Ba, lace .....	2.	2
2.	Carriage .....	3.	4.
	do. ....	6.	
3.	Porter &c.....	1.	5.
	House exp. ....	13.	5
	Sundries .....	13.	1. 5.
	Bianchi (A's Bill & mine) <sup>9</sup> .....	23.	
	Ferd. wages.....	6.	
	Mignaty (Drawings &c—in all).....	20.	
4.	Washing Bill .....	1	5. 7
	Sundries .....	2.	6. 6
	Blouse (Peni) .....	6.	
	Mahl-stick.....	2	
	Hair cutting.....	1.	2.
5.	Concert-ticket .....	5	
	Lazzeri <sup>10</sup> (orange-tree).....	1.	
7.	Homœop. Med-chest.....	5.	5.
8.	Concert.....	2	
10.	letter .....	3	
	House .....	13.	5
	Expenses .....	6.	5
	Cloth (&c to Wilson) .....	10.	1. 2
	lace &c Ba .....	10.	2
	Carriage (3).....	1.	8
	Washing .....	1.	2 5
	Sundries .....	4.	8
	do. Ba.....	3.	5
11.	Ride.....	–	5. 4
12.	Balia.....	1.	
13.	Ba, Italian Books .....	–	

	Ride &c.....	-	4
	Isa, watch.....	18.	
15.	Girol.....	1.	
	Chain Ba - (with 9-1/2 <sup>tni</sup> for chain sold) .....	16	
16.	Bellosguardo.....	2.	
17.	House Bill.....	13.	6. 6.
	Expenses.....	3.	9. 3.
18.	Ride &.....	3.	6.
	Carriage (Isa &).....	3.	
19.	A's wages.....	5.	
	Washing.....	1.	2
	Expenses.....	1.	7. 1.
21.	Ride.....	3.	4.
22.	Sundries.....	5.	
23.	House Bill.....	13.	6. 7
	Sundries.....	7.	2. 5.
	Ring & Locket (Ba).....	-	5 -
25.	Ride.....	3	6.
	Carriage.....	6	
	Ba (P's dress).....	1.	8.
26.	Girol's father.....	1.	
27.	Ride.....	3.	4
29.	Ride (Miss F.P.) <sup>11</sup> .....	4.	4.
31.	House.....	14.	2. 1
	[illegible words].....	4.	3. 6.
	last week's Washing Bill.....	1.	4. 5
	Sundry expenses.....	5.	1. 2
	Washing Bill.....	1.	3. 5
[June] 1.	Ferd's wages.....	6.	
	Porter.....	1.	5
3.	Ride.....	3.	
	Girol's.....	1.	
7.	House exp. ....	14.	- 3
	Sundries.....	8.	7. 5
	Washing.....	1.	3. 1
	A's Bill.....	4.	4. 4
11.	Locket, Mrs Eckley.....	3.	5.
14.	House exp. & sundries.....	21.	1. 7.
	Bianchi's Bill.....	16	
16.	Washing & A's Bill.....	5.	9.
	Locket.....	8	
	Ride (14).....	-	4. 4.
19.	Sundry expenses.....	2.	
	A's wages.....	5.	
20.	Carriage.....	-	1.
21.	House exp. & sundries.....	20.	2. 5.
	Ba garment.....	4.	
23.	Washing.....	1.	8. 6
	Millinery &c.....	8.	9. 2

26.	Tickets, oratorio.....	2.
27.	Carriage & Books of Marlowe.....	- 5
28.	Weeks expenses & sundries.....	25. 6. 4
	Embroidery, Peni .....	1. 5.

Lent Mrs Stuart 20<sup>fi</sup> Apr. 24. '58.  
also, 50. May. 31. '58

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1. We have been unable to determine the meaning of these letters.
  2. The Porta Romana, the gate the Brownings passed through on their way to and from Bellosguardo.
  3. "Flower girl."
  4. Evidently, a local groom or carriage driver.
  5. Probably, Giorgio Vasari, *Le Vite de' piú eccellenti pittori, scultori e architetti* (13 vols., Florence, 1846–57), which sold as lot 1182 in *Browning Collections* (see *Reconstruction*, A2379). Vasari was RB's principal source for "Andrea del Sarto," "Fra Lippo Lippi," and "Old Pictures in Florence," all of which were published in *Men and Women* (1855).
  6. Giannina Milli, *Poesie* (2nd ed., Firenze, 1858). This copy, inscribed by EBB, "EB & R Browning, Casa Guidi, 1858," sold as part of lot 931 in *Browning Collections* (see *Reconstruction*, A1600).
  7. Presumably, a work by Filippo Baldinucci (1624–96), Florentine art historian, best known for his *Notizie de' professori del disegno da Cimabue in qua* (6 vols., Florence, 1681–1728), which RB consulted for his poems on painters and paintings of the Italian Renaissance. He attacked Baldinucci in *Parleying with Certain People of Importance in Their Day* (1887).
  8. See letter 4166, note 2.
  9. In this case "A" stands for Annette Bracken, with whom RB often went horseback riding. Above the "23" he has written "(16)," probably his or Annette's part of the total.
  10. Later spelled "Lazzari" by EBB; he was a cousin of Ferdinando's and worked for the Brownings from time to time.
  11. Gertrude FitzPatrick (afterwards Smyth, 1831–1912); see letter 4088.